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Man Charged in Sylmar Killing

An 18-year-old alleged gang member has been charged in connection with the killing of a 21-year-old former soldier, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Taly Peretz of the Hardcore Gang Division said Vincent Anthony Estrada (dob 12/7/95) faces one count each of murder, attempted murder and discharge of firearm with gross negligence in case PA082473.

Estrada pleaded not guilty to the charges yesterday and is due to return on Dec. 18 in Department S of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch.

The complaint also includes an allegation that the offenses were committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

Francisco Garcia, who spent some time in the Army, was shot and killed on Sunday, Nov. 9, while he was with a group of people near Sylmar High School, the prosecutor said.

Bail for Estrada has been set at more than \$2 million.

If convicted as charged, he faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Mission Station.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's</u> <u>Office</u> prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.